DAYCO CORP. / L.E.CARPENTER CO.

NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD002168748

EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 11
Morris County
Wharton Borough

Site Description

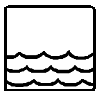
The Dayco Corp./L.E. Carpenter Company Site covers 14 ½-acres, and includes buildings, warehouses, and remnants of disposal areas that are associated with a former vinyl wall covering manufacturing facility in Wharton Township. During original plant operations, various solid and liquid wastes were disposed of in unlined on-site lagoons, located approximately 20 feet from the Rockaway River. Although manufacturing no longer occurs at the Site, several buildings are rented out as warehouses and offices. The Site is located in the flood plain of the Rockaway River and is above an aquifer that provides potable water for both Wharton and Dover Townships. The Site borders both residential and industrial areas, and approximately 27,000 people live within a 3-mile radius. The nearest residence is 150 feet north of the Site, and two of Wharton Township's public supply wells are approximately 2,600 feet from the Site.

Site Responsibility:

This Site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 04/01/85
Final Date: 07/01/87

Threats and Contaminants



The ground water and soil at the Site are contaminated with various volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as xylene and ethylbenzene, semi-volatile compounds including bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, and with inorganics, such as lead and antimony. Some small amounts of site-related contaminants have been found in Rockaway River sediment samples. The contaminated ground water and soil could adversely affect the health of people if accidentally swallowed, inhaled or if contacted.

Cleanup Approach

The Site is being addressed in two stages: initial actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire Site.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In 1982, Dayco Corp./L.E. Carpenter Company removed heavily contaminated soils and chemical storage tanks for off-site disposal.

Entire Site: The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is directly overseeing Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) actions at the Site, with EPA assistance. The NJDEP issued two administrative orders covering various on-site activities: one in 1982, and a second in 1986. Pursuant to the first order, the PRP installed monitoring wells and constructed a floating product recovery system in 1982, and in 1985, the PRP excavated and removed approximately 4,000 yards of contaminated sludge from an impoundment. In addition, as part of NJDEP approved closure activities, the PRP removed sixteen above and below ground storage tanks and associated contaminated soils.

In accordance with the second order, the PRP began a site-wide remedial investigation (RI) in 1986 to determine the nature and extent of contamination. The RI was conducted in several phases and completed in 1992. As part of the RI, twelve areas or hot spots containing contamination were identified. In 1993, the PRP completed a feasibility study (FS) that evaluated possible cleanup actions. In December 1993, the NJDEP issued a proposed plan describing its preferred remedy and opened a 30-day public comment period. The NJDEP issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on April 18, 1994, outlining the selected remedy: excavation and the on- and off-site disposal of contaminated soils; floating product removal; ground water extraction and remediation via biological treatment; reinfiltration of treated ground water; vegetative soil cover; and property restrictions.

As part of the selected remedy, in December 1994, the PRP further investigated and excavated lead and PCB-contaminated soils from some identified hot spot areas. During implementation of the remedy it was revealed that contamination within several hot spot areas was more extensive than anticipated. Based on this, phased remedial investigation and excavation activities were on-going through August 1996. Currently, all hot spot areas have been excavated with the exception of Hot Spots 1, 4, B, and C. Between February and April 1998, the area in the vicinity of Hot Spot 1 and Monitoring Well 19 was the subject of an additional focused study to better define the extent of ground water contamination. The results of this investigation indicated that additional investigations were necessary, which were subsequently included in the November 1998 work plan that covered all four remaining hot spot areas. Additional limited phased investigations were conducted during the Spring of 1999 and Fall of 2001. The results of these studies were presented by the PRP for review in several reports in late 1999, early 2000, and the Spring of 2002. The last round of investigations have located the downgradient extent of the groundwater contaminant plume in the Hot Spot 1 area and delineated the extent of the lead contamination in soils.

The PRP is currently preparing a remedial design workplan that is scheduled to be sumbitted to the Agencies in spring 2004. Initiation of the completion of the soil excavation remedy is tentatively scheduled for fall 2004.

Site Facts: Under an Administrative Order issued in 1986, the PRP initiated investigation activities to characterize the nature and extent of contamination at the site. In addition, the PRP initiated design and remedial action cleanup activities.

Cleanup Progress  (Threats Mitigated by Cleanup Progress)

Removal of 16 storage tanks and much of the contaminated soils have greatly reduced the potential for exposure to contaminants at the Site. In addition, a total of 5,341 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and disposed of off-site. A free product recovery system was installed in 1982, upgraded in 1991, and replaced with a new system in December of 1997, when the former systems showed diminishing returns. Since initiation in December 1997, the new recovery system has removed more than 14,185 total gallons of liquids, which included approximately 3,277 gallons of floating product.